

self, for the collection of subscriptions from individual members of the Society and from others interested in the progress of science. He was afraid, it was only too certain that the widow of Mr. Piddington was in a deplorable state of destitution, and he trusted that they would one and all by coming forward with their contributions emphatically declare that this was a thing, which should not be.

The receipt of the following communications has been announced :—

1. Observations on some Indian and Malayan Amphibia and Reptilia, by Dr. F. Stoliczka.
2. Notes on some places of historical interest in the District of Hugli, by H. Blochmann, Esq.
3. Paper on old Delhi, by J. D. Tremlett, Esq.
4. *Gentziana Jäschkei* re-established as a new genus of *Gentzianaceæ*, by S. Kurz, Esq.
5. Notes on the Andamanese, by Surgeon F. Day.
6. Notes on a trip to the Andamans, by V. Ball, Esq.
7. On the relation of the Uriya to the other Modern Aryan languages, by J. Beames, Esq., B. C. S.

The following papers were read :—

I.—OBSERVATIONS ON SOME INDIAN AND MALAYAN AMPHIBIA AND REPTILIA, by Dr. F. Stoliczka (Abstract).

The species described in this paper have been partially collected by the author along the Burmese and Malayan coast, in Penang and Singapore, partially at the Nicobar and Andaman islands, only a few species are noticed from Java, and a few also from the N. W. Himalayas. Short notes on the geographical distribution, and on the general character of the Amphibian and Reptilian fauna of the Andamans and Nicobars, form a brief preface to the detailed descriptions. Complete lists of all the known species occurring on the two last named groups of islands are appended.

The following is a list of the species noticed, with the localities wherefrom specimens have been obtained, and brief characteristics of the new species. Of those species marked with an asterisk (*) illustrations will be given.

AMPHIBIA.

BATRACHIA.

1. *Rana gracilis*, Wieg m., (typical)—Sundarbans, Arracan, Rangoon, Moulmein, Penang, Wellesley Province, &c.
Ditto ditto var. **Andamanensis**,—Andamans.
Ditto ditto var. **Nicobariensis**,—Nicobars.
Ditto ditto var. **pulla**,—Penang hill.
2. *Rana cyanophlictis*, Schneid.—Orissa.
3. *Pyxicephalus breviceps*, Schneid.—from near Kotegurh.
- *4. **Polypedates Hascheanus**, n. sp.

A small species from the forests of Penang hill;—distance between anus and heel slightly less than the length of the body; brown, lighter or darker, a blackish band between the eyes, a W mark between the shoulders, a pair of blackish spots about the middle of the body, limbs with dark cross bands; body of largest specimen $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch long.

5. *Plyp. maculatus*, Gray,—Penang.

* 6. *Hylorana Tytleri*, Theob. (?? = *erythræa*, Schleg.)—Moulmein.

* 7. **Hylorana Nicobariensis**, n. sp., from the Nicobars. Allied to *H. temporalis* of Günther, but has two small glandular tubercles behind the angle of the mouth; distance between anus and heel less than the length of the body, 4th toe less than its half.

Ansonia, n. gen. (*Rhinodermatidæ*.)

Body slender, limbs long and slender, fingers free, toes half-webbed, disks scarcely swollen; muzzle short, canthus rostralis sharp; no teeth; tongue entire, oval, elongated.

* 8.—**A. Penangensis**, found on rocks in streams on Penang hill. Full grown specimen $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch, hind limb $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches; body tubercular, black with pale yellowish white spots on the side and purplish red below, between the limbs and on the lower belly.

- * 9. *Diplopelma Carnaticum*, Jerdon.

10. *Caloula pulchra*, Gray, from Moulmein.

11. *Bufo viridis*, Laur., from the Sutlej valley.

12. *Bufo melanostictus*, Schneid., from Bengal, Burma, Malay-Peninsula, Andamans and Nicobars.

REPTILIA.

LACERTILIA.

13. *Ptychozoon homalocephalum*, K u h l,—Nicobars.
14. *Gecko guttatus*, D a u d.—Burma and Andamans.
15. *Gecko stentor*, C a n t.—Andamans.
16. *Gecko Smithii*, G r a y,—Java.
17. *Phelsuma Andamanense*, B l y t h,—Andamans.
18. *Peripia Peronii*, C a n t.—Penang.
19. *Peripia Cantoris*, G ü n t h.—Andamans.
20. *Hemidactylus frenatus*, Schleg.—Burma, Penang, Andamans and Nicobars.
21. *Hemidactylus maculatus*, D. and B.—Moulmein, Andamans, Calcutta, &c.
22. *Cyrtodactylus rubidus*, (*Puellula rubida*, B l y t h)—Andamans.
- 23.* ***Cyrtodactylus affinis***, n. sp.—Penang.
Like *Gymnodactylus pulchellus*, Gray, in form and coloration, but with longer fingers and toes, and apparently more depressed body, no enlarged chin shields, or sub-caudals, and no femoral pores.
24. *Tiliqua carinata*, S c h n e i d. (*Eup. rufescens* apud G ü n t h.)—Bengal, Burma, Penang, Andamans, &c.
25. *Tiliqua olivacea*, G r a y,—Nicobars.
- 26.* ***Tiliqua rugifera***, n. sp.—Nicobars; each scale five carinated; scales in 26 series round the body, 23 transverse rows between the limbs, 8 longitudinal rows on the belly; brown above, two pale streaks on the anterior half of the body, pale yellowish or greenish white below.
- 27.* ***Mabouya Jerdoniana***, n. sp.—Penang.
Like *M. agilis*, G r a y, but it has 7 supraciliaries, 8 upper labials, scales in 39 series round the body, 60 transverse rows between the limbs, pre-anals scarcely, sub-caudals distinctly enlarged.
28. *Hinulia maculata*, B l y t h,—Martaban.
- 29.* ***Riopa lineolata***, n. sp.—Martaban. Similar to *R. Bowringii*, G ü n t h., and equal to it in size, but with scales in 24 longitudinal series round the body, and 60—65 transverse series between the limbs.
30. *Calotes mystaceus*, D. & B.,—Arracan, Bassein, Moulmein, &c.

31. *Bronchocele cristatella*, K u h l,—Penang.
32. „ *Moluccana*, L e s s.—Singapore.
33. „ *jubata*, D. and B.—Java, Nicobars.
34. *Tiaris suberistata*, B l y t h, (*Coryphylax Maximiliani*, F i t z.)
—Andamans and Nicobars.
35. *Draco volans*, L.—Penang.

OPHIDIA.

36. *Cylindrophis rufus*, L a u r.,—Upper Burma.
 37. *Ablabes melanocephalus*, G r a y,—Singapore.
 38. „ *Rappii*, G ü n t h.,—Simla.
 39. „ *collaris*, G r a y,—Simla.
 - 40.* „ **Nicobariensis**, n. sp.—Nicobars.
- Scales smooth in 17 series, vent. 189, anal bifid, sub-caudals 87, coloration similar to *melanocephalus*, but the lateral spots are smaller and much more numerous; length $17\frac{1}{2}$ inch of which tail is $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch.
41. *Ptyas mucosus*, L.,—N. W. Himalaya, Moulmein, Andamans.
 42. *Ptyas hexahonotus*, C a n t.,—(*Xenelaphis idem* apud G ü n t h.)
—Penang.
 43. *Composoma radiatum*, R e i n.,—Moulmein.
 44. „ *melanurum*, S c h l e g.—Andamans.
 - 45.* „ *semifasciata*, (*Platyiceps idem*) B l y t h,—south of Simla.
 46. „ *Hodgsonii* G ü n t h.,—N. E. of Simla.
 47. *Tropidonotus quincunctiatus*, S c h l e g., (*Trop. Tytleri* and *striolatus*, B l y t h).—Burma, Andamans.
 48. *Trop. stolatus*, L.—Moulmein, Amherst.
 49. „ *platyiceps*, B l y t h, (*Zamenis Himalayanus*, Steindach.)
Kulu.
 50. *Gonyosoma oxycephalum*, B o i e.—Andamans.
 51. *Dendrophis picta*, G m e l.—Burma, Andamans, Nicobars,
Penang.
 52. *Dend. caudolineata*, G r a y,—Penang.
 53. *Chrysopelea ornata*, S h a w,—Penang, Burma.
 54. „ *rubescens*, G r a y,—Penang.
 55. *Psammophis condanurus*, M e r r. (*Phayrea isabellina*, T h e o b.)
—Simla.

56. *Tragops fronticinctus*, G ü n t h.,—Amherst.
- 57.* *Dipsas hexagonotus*, B l y t h.,—Andamans.
- 58.* „ *multifasciata*, B l y t h.,—South of Simla.
59. *Lycodon striatus*, S h a w.,—from near Kotegurh.
60. „ *aulicus* L. (*Tytleria hipsirhinoides*, T h e o b a l d),—Andamans and India generally.
- 61.* *Tetragonosoma effrene*, C a n t. (var.)—Banca.
62. *Python molurus* L i n n.,—Upper Burma, Malayan Peninsula.
63. „ *reticulatus*, S c h n e i d.,—Nicobars.
64. *Hypsirrhina plumbea*, B o i e.,—Upper Burma.
65. *Cerberus rhynchops*, S c h n e i d.,—Burma, Andamans, Nicobars, &c.
66. *Hipistes hydrinus*, C a n t.,—Amherst.
- 67.* **Cantoria Dayana**, n. sp.—Amherst. Form typical, scales in 19 series, ventrals 268, anal bifid, sub-caudals 56; dull bluish black with numerous yellowish cross-bands, narrow on the back but widening laterally.
68. *Bangurus cœruleus*, S c h n e i d.,—Bassein.
- 69.* *Ophiophagus elaps*, S c h l e g.,—Burma, Andamans.
70. *Naja tripudians*, M e r r.,—N. W. Himalaya, Andamans.
71. *Callophis intestinalis*, L a u r.,—Upper Burma.
72. *Enhydryna Valakadyn*, B o i e. (*E. Bengalensis*, G r a y)—Orissa.
73. *Enh. shistosa*, D a u d.,—Gopalpore.
74. *Pelamis platurus*, L., (*P. bicolor*, S c h n e i d.)—Bay of Bengal.
75. *Trimeresurus gramineus*, S h a w.,—Khasi hills.
76. „ *erythrurus*, C a n t.,—Burma, Java.
77. „ *carinatus*, G r a y.,—N. W. Himalaya.
- 78.* „ *porphyraceus*, B l y t h.,—Andamans.
- 79.* **Trim. mutabilis**, n. sp.—Andamans and Nicobars. Scales in 21 series, ventrals 156-167, sub-caudals 48-62; second labial forms the angle of the facial pit or is divided in two shields; color uniform reddish brown or with numerous greenish white cross bands on the back, laterally with longitudinal bands.
- 80.* *Trim. Cantori*, B l y t h.,—Andamans and Nicobars.

81.* **Trim. convictus**, n. sp. Penang.

Like *T. monticola*, G ü n t h., but with much larger scales which are disposed in 21 series; vent. 132, subcaudals 29.

82. *Halys Himalayanus*, G ü n t h.—N. W. Himalaya.

83. *Daboia Russelli*, S h a w,—N. W. Himalaya.

CHELONIA.

84. *Emys crassiollis*, B e l l,—Penang.

Dr. Stoliczka gave a short sketch of the relations existing between the Andaman and Nicobar Reptilian fauna and that of Burma on the one and of Java, Sumatra and the Philippine islands on the other hand. All these islands, he said, &c., have many species common. He also specially noticed the very great number of Viperine snakes (*Trimeresurus*) which are to be met with at the Nicobars, but fortunately these species appear to be less dangerous than continental forms usually are. The Nicobarese say that not a single fatal case results from the bite of these *Trimeresurus*, and certainly all the specimens examined had a comparatively small poison-gland. The result of the bite is said to be only a swelling of the wounded part. Dr. St. also exhibited a specimen of the rare *Callophis intestinalis* obtained from Upper Burma. The species has the poison-glands extending from the head to about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total length of the body, lying free in the cavity of the anterior part and causing the heart to be much further removed backward, than is generally the case in other species of snakes.

The President thought there were one or two remarkable features in Dr. Stoliczka's interesting paper.—One to which he particularly referred was the relative inefficiency of the poison in certain snakes of Penang and the Nicobars in comparison with the poison of the cognate species found in this country. He did not know whether the circumstances which rendered the possession of an invariably fatal weapon necessary to particular classes of snakes in the struggle for life, while others could maintain themselves without it, had yet received much attention. *A priori*, he thought one would be disposed to expect that a poison which would disable without causing immediate death, would be more deterrent in its effects, and, therefore, more widely useful to its possessor than one which killed instantly.

At any rate it was curious to find some of the insular species of snakes, though provided with a perfect poison apparatus, much less fatal in the effect of their bite than other closely allied species in Bengal were. The investigation of the causes which had led to this difference ought to be attractive.

A short discussion on the effects of snake-poisoning ensued. Mr. Waldie desired to know what the symptoms were resulting from the bite of the Nicobar vipers, and whether they are the same as usually known to originate from the bite of other poisonous snakes.

Dr. Stoliczka said that the Nicobarese only speak of a swelling of the bitten part, and that they exhibit very little fear of these snakes. Dr. Stoliczka also observed that the poison gland in the species of *Trimeresurus* which he had examined, has a simple glandular form without any appendages, but the skin forming it is very tough, and internally partitioned by numerous irregular lamellæ. The poison of the fresh snake was always in a comparatively small quantity present, and appeared less viscose than the Cobra poison. The differences between the effects of poisoning of the *Cobra* and *Daboia* had been pointed out by Dr. Fayerer.

II.—NOTES ON PLACES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IN THE DISTRICT OF HUGLI,—by H. BLOCHMANN, Esq., M. A. (I.—*Madáran and Panduah.*)

The Historians of India assign to Bengal much narrower limits than we do at the present day. In the *Ṭabaqát i Náçiri* and the *Tárikh i Fírúزشáhi*, the earliest Muhammadan histories in which Bengal is mentioned, the territories attached to the towns of Sât-gáñw (Húgli), Sunnárgáñw (East of Dacca), and Lak'hnautí (Gaur), are called *Diyár i Bang*, perhaps a verbal translation of the old term *Bangadesh*. The districts north of the Ganges were partly attached to Lak'hnautí, partly to Sunnárgáñw. The word *Bengal* or *Bangálah*, if I am not mistaken, does not occur in the *Ṭabaqát i Náçiri*, and is but rarely met with in the *Tárikh i Fírúزشáhi*. Nor does it occur on Muhammadan coins. One of the earliest passages, in